CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of structuring a computer database, said method comprising:

5      providing an category table;

       providing a content table containing content corresponding to categories in said category table;

       providing a category contents table
10     containing a mapping scheme that maps content contained in said content table to categories in said category table;

       providing an attributes table containing attributes for an application utilizing said
15     database; and

       providing an attributes values table containing values corresponding to said attributes in said attributes table.

20     2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing a category relationships table containing category relationships and rules corresponding to categories in said category table.

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3.  The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing an attribute area table that
defines the area of an application utilizing said
database which is permitted to use certain of said
5       attributes; and

providing an application area table that
defines the areas of an application utilizing said
database which may be referenced.

10      4.  The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing an attribute pre-defined value
table that contains all pre-defined enumerated
values for certain of said attributes; and

providing a category pre-defined values table
15      that contains pre-defined values for certain
categories in said category table.

5.  The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing a category types table that
20      describes the category type for certain categories
in said category table; and

providing a content type table that describes
the type of content stored in said content table;
and

providing a category relationship rule table
that describes the relationship rules for said
category types.

5      6.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising
providing a content value table that contains the
actual content corresponding to said content in said
content table.

7.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

10          providing a content relationships table that
describes the relationship among said content in
said content table; and

            providing a content relationship type table
that defines the rationale for the relationship
15          among said content in said content table.

8.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

            providing a parameter names table that
defines names of parameters;

20          providing an application parameter type table
that groups parameter types; and

            providing a parameter value table that
defines values for said parameters in said
parameter names table.

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9.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing a template table that provides templates that are used to present categories and said content;

providing a template types table that defines types of templates; and

providing a presentation method table that identifies which of said templates are used to display said categories and said content.

10.   A computer system for storing and transferring data, said system comprising:

at least one server computer connected through a computer network; and

at least one computer program executed by said at least one server computer, wherein said at least one computer program manages data stored in a database having a structure comprising:

a category table;

a content table containing content corresponding to categories in said category table;

a category contents table containing a mapping scheme that maps content contained in said content table to categories in said category table;

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an attributes table containing
attributes for an application utilizing said
database; and

an attributes values table containing
5    values corresponding to said attributes in
said attributes table.


11.    The system of Claim 10, wherein said database
structure further comprises a category relationships
10    table containing category relationships and rules
corresponding to categories in said category table.


12.    The system of Claim 10, wherein said database
structure further comprises:

15            an attribute area table that defines the
area of an application utilizing said
database which is permitted to use certain of
said attributes; and

an application area table that defines
20            the areas of an application utilizing said
database which may be referenced.


13.    The system of Claim 10, wherein said database
structure further comprises:

an attribute pre-defined value table
that contains all pre-defined enumerated
values for certain of said attributes; and

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a category pre-defined values table that
contains pre-defined values for certain
categories in said category table.

14. The system of Claim 10, wherein said database
structure further comprises:

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a category types table that describes
the category type for certain categories in
said category table; and

a content type table that describes the
type of content stored in said content table;
15      and

a category relationship rule table that
describes the relationship rules for said
category types.

20      15. The system of Claim 10, wherein said database
structure further comprises providing a content value
table that contains the actual content corresponding to
said content in said content table.

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16.   The system of Claim 10, wherein said database structure further comprises:

a content relationships table that describes the relationship among said content

5          in said content table; and

a content relationship type table that defines the rationale for the relationship among said content in said content table.

10     17.   The system of Claim 10, wherein said database structure further comprises:

a parameter names table that defines names of parameters;

an application parameter type table that

15         groups parameter types; and

a parameter value table that defines values for said parameters in said parameter names table.

20     18.   The system of Claim 10, wherein said database structure further comprises:

a template table that provides templates that are used to present categories and said content;

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a template types table that defines
types of templates; and

a presentation method table that
identifies which of said templates are used
5          to display said categories and said content.

19.    The system of Claim 10, further comprising a
web server computer to provide Internet access to said
at least one server computer.

10          20.    A method of structuring a computer database,
said method comprising:

providing an entity table having a
minimal set of attributes;

providing an entity attributes table
15          having attributes corresponding to said
entity table; and

providing an entity attributes values
table having values corresponding to said
attributes.

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21.    The method of Claim 20, further comprising:

providing a content table containing
content corresponding to said entity table;
and

providing an entity contents table that
maps said content to a corresponding entity.

22.   The method of Claim 20, further comprising

5   providing an entity relationships table that contains
relationships and rules corresponding to entities in
said entity table.

23.   A computer system for storing and
transferring data, said system comprising:

10               at least one server computer connected
through a computer network; and

at least one computer program executed
by said at least one server computer, wherein
said at least one computer program manages

15               data stored in a database having a structure
comprising:

an entity table having a minimal
set of attributes;

an entity attributes table having

20               attributes corresponding to said entity
table; and

an entity attributes values table
having values corresponding to said
attributes.

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24. The system of Claim 23, wherein said database further comprises:

a content table containing content corresponding to said entity table; and

5        an entity contents table that maps said content to a corresponding entity.

25. The system of Claim 23, wherein said database further comprises an entity relationships table that
10  contains relationships and rules corresponding to entities in said entity table.

26. A method of structuring a database, said method comprising:

creating a data objects table containing
15  attributes;

creating an attributes table containing properties of said attributes in said data objects table; and

creating a value table containing values
20  for said properties for specific instances of said attributes.

27. The method of Claim 26, further comprising creating a relationships table containing object
25  relationships corresponding to said attributes in said data objects table.

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28.   The method of Claim 26, further comprising
providing at least one foreign key in said value table
to identify which value corresponds to a specific
instance of said attributes for said properties.

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29.   A computer system for storing and
transferring data, said system comprising:

at least one server computer connected
through a computer network; and

10            at least one computer program executed
by said at least one server computer, wherein
said at least one computer program manages
data stored in a database having a structure
comprising:

15                    creating a data objects table
containing attributes;

creating an attributes table
containing properties of said attributes
in said data objects table; and

20            creating a value table containing
values for said properties for specific
instances of said attributes.

30.   The system of Claim 29, wherein said database
25   structure further comprises a relationships table

containing object relationships corresponding to said attributes in said data objects table.


31.    The method of Claim 29, wherein said database structure further comprises at least one foreign key in said value table to identify which value corresponds to a specific instance of said attributes for said properties.